

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02466 121004Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----095688 121011Z /20  
O 041858Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8766

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2466

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

TRUE CORRECTED COPY (MRN 2466 VICE 2566)

ARA FOR D AND L ONLY

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI  
SUBJ: LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE: ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

REF: SANTIAGO 2423

1. PRESS THIS MORNING REPORTS STATEMENTS BY TOWNLEY'S  
LAWYER REGARDING MANNER AND TIMING OF TESTIMONY FROM  
TOWNLEY. ACUNA SAYS THAT HIS CLIENT WAS PERFECTLY AGREE-  
ABLE TO MEETING WITH PROPPER INFORMALLY AND THAT THE  
FORMAL HEARING AND THE CONDITIONS STIPULATED WERE BOTH  
REASONABLE AND, TO A DEGREE, FLEXIBLE. ACUNA CATEGORIZES  
PROPPER'S DECISION THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 31 NOT TO HOLD  
THE INFORMAL MEETING AS RAISING SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT  
HIS TRUE INTENTIONS: "IS THIS A LEGAL MATTER IN WHICH  
PROPPER IS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING ALL THE INFORMATION  
AVAILABLE OR IS IT A POLITICAL MANEUER TO DAMAGE CHILE?"

2. HE SAYS THE ORIGINAL PLAN HAD BEEN TO HOLD THE HEARING  
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 02466 121004Z

APRIL 3 IN ORDER TO ALLOW TOWNLEY TIME TO TALK TO HIS US  
LAWYER, JAMES WECK, WHO ARRIVED IN SANTIAGO APRIL 1. AS  
THE SECOND BEST ALTERNATIVE, ACCORDING TO ACUNA, TOWNLEY  
WOULD HAVE BEEN WILLING TO HOLD THE HEARING ANYTIME AFTERNOON  
ON APRIL 1. THE INSISTENCE OF THE COURT IN PROCEEDING THE  
MORNING OF APRIL 1 MADE IT INEVITABLE THAT TOWNLEY WOULD  
NOT BE ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AS FULLY AS WOULD OTHER-

WISE HAVE BEEN THE CASE (A VEILED REFERENCE TO TOWNLEY'S USE OF THE FIFTH AMENDMENT).

3. ACUNA ALSO TOLD THE PRESS THAT TOWNLEY, "WHO HAS BLIND FAITH IN OUR LEGAL SYSTEM" IS PLANNING TO APPLY FOR CHILEAN CITIZENSHIP.

4. COMMENT: LAWYER ACUNA'S ACCOUNT IS AT BEST COMPOSED OF PART TRUTHS. HE IS DOING HIS JOB AS A DEFENSE LAWYER. WE DO NOT PLAN TO KEEP THIS PARTICULAR STORY ALIVE BY ANY PUBLIC REBUTTALS. AS REPORTED REFTEL, PROPPER AND OTHERS DID MEET WITH WECK SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL. HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE CASE AND INDICATED HE WAS IN NO POSITION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE. HE DID NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT THE HEARING HAVING BEEN HELD THAT MORNING, PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL.  
LANDAU

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION, INVESTIGATIONS, COURT PROCEEDINGS, DEPOSITIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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